

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 PC-01 /060 W
-----004497 231826Z /44

R 230908Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5752
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 17200

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-MRN 17200 VICE 18200

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID
SUBJECT: GENERAL NASUTION CLAIMS HE'S BEING FRAMED

REF: (A) JAKARTA 16822, (B) JAKARTA 16920, (C) JAKARTA 16844

1. RETIRED GENERAL ABDUL HARIS NASUTION, WHO IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF THE ARMED FORCES DEC. 15 STATEMENT (REF A), TOLD JAKARTA PRESS OF TWO INDICATIONS THAT HE "HAD BEEN FRAMED".

A. AT JOGJAKARTA AIRPORT ON DEC 20 A FIELD OFFICER OF THE CENTRAL JAVA COMMAND DREW HIS ATTENTION TO A REPORT ALLEGEDLY ORIGINATING IN SURABAYA THAT "SOME BRIGADES WERE BEHIND NASUTION". NASUTION SAID HE HAD THEREUPON LECTURED STUDENTS ALSO PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT ON THE NEED TO FIGHT FOR PRINCIPLES INSTEAD OF PERSONS.

B. THE WEST JAVA SILIWANGI COMMAND, NASUTION CONTINUED, HAD INFORMED HIM OF A BANDUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S REPORT TO
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ARMY INTELLIGENCE THAT NASUTION HAD SAID THE PEOPLE AND THE ARMED FORCES WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION. THE WEST JAVA COMMAND DID NOT BELIEVE THE REPORT, HE SAID.

2. STATING THAT IT WAS IMPROPER FOR ONE GENERAL TO DISCUSS THE REMARKS OF ANOTHER, NASUTION REFUSED TO COMMENT ON

EAST JAVA COMMANDER WITARMAN'S STATEMENT THAT SENIOR ARMED FORCES OFFICERS SUPPORTED THE OVERTHROW OF SUHARTO (REF B).

3. NASUTION HAD GENERALLY KIND WORDS FOR THE STUDENTS, NOTING THAT THEIR STRUGGLE WAS FOR "CLEAN GOVERNMENT". AFTER REFERRING TO JOINT ARMED FORCES AND STUDENT ACTION TO UPHOLD THE 1945 CONSTITUTION IN 1966 AND TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS THE FIRST TO SIGN THE 1966 ARMED FORCES STATEMENT, NASUTION SAID THE 1977 STATEMENT COULD BECOME STARTING POINT FOR ALL PARTIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO UPHOLD THE 1945 CONSTITUTION.

4. COMMENT: FOR NASUTION, WHO IS NOT USUALLY ONE TO SEEK A FIGHT, THESE WORDS ARE SOMEWHAT DEFIANT. HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENTS' STRUGGLE, FOR CONSTITUTIONALITY AND FOR STUDENT-MILITARY SOLIDARITY BUT NOT FOR THE CURRENT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. SOME OF HIS WORDS COULD ALSO BE TAKEN AS HINTS THAT HE HAS FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY REGIONS. IN CONTRAST TO SUHARTO'S MODERATE STATEMENT (REF C), NASUTION'S REMARKS SHOULD SERVE TO SUSTAIN PRESENT POLITICAL TENSION AND THUS TO STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THOSE MILITARY LEADERS WHO WISH TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST HIM.
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